

Status of the Claims.

Claims 1-70 are pending. New claims 71-100 are added.

Support for the newly added claims.

Claim 71 finds support on page 1, lines 19-20 (describing ribozymes as catalysts) and on page 5 lines 14-25 describing the general method of using ribozymes as tools to effect phenotypic changes. Claim 71 corresponds to claim 1 of the '959 patent.

Claims 72 and 73 also find support in the specification at page 5, lines 14-25. Claims 72 and 73 correspond to claims 2 and 3 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claims 74-76 find support on page 39, lines 9-10 (bacterial and plant) and on page 41, line 10 (mammalian). Claims 74-76 correspond to claims 4-6 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claims 77-78, reciting different types of ribozymes, find support on page 1, lines 19-24, and at page 7, line 27. Claims 77-78 correspond to claims 9 and 10 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claim 79, reciting different types of ribozymes, finds support on page 1, lines 19-24. Claim 79 corresponds to claim 12 of the '959 patent.

Claim 80, reciting different types of phenotypic changes, finds support on page 13, lines 28-35 and on page 46, in the section entitled, "One or more biological activities of the cell...is monitored." Claim 80 corresponds to claim 13 of the '959 patent.

Claims 81-85, reciting different types of expression vectors, find support on page 25 in the section entitled, "Insertion of randomized ribozyme genes into a cloning or expression vector." Claims 81-85 correspond to claims 14-18 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claims 86-89, reciting different types of viral vectors, find support on page 30 section 4 entitled, "Vectors useful for maximal ribozyme expression." Alphaviruses on page 34, section (c) entitled, "Sindbis/Semliki Forest Virus." Claims 86-89 correspond to claims 19-22 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claim 90, reciting an expression vector derived from a bacterial plasmid, finds support on the carryover paragraph between pages 25 and 26 where prokaryote expression vectors are described. Claim 90 corresponds to claims 23 of the '959 patent, respectively.

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Claims 91-93, reciting different promoters, finds support on page 34, section 4, entitled, "Promoters useful for ribozyme expression." Pol II promoters are mRNA promoters and find support in the Beta-actin and gamma-globin promoter. Claims 91-93 correspond to claims 24-27 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claims 94-95, reciting biological systems of prokaryotic and eukaryotic origin, find support on page 39, line 10, reciting both prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Claims 94-95 correspond to claims 30-31 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Claim 96, reciting binding domain length, finds support on page 27, line 30. Claim 96 corresponds to claim 33 of the '959 patent.

Claims 97-100, reciting two binding arms, find support on page 1, lines 19-24 describing different ribozymes inherently having two binding arms, and at pages 27-28 describing binding arms. Claims 97-100 correspond to claims 36-38 of the '959 patent, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the outstanding concerns raised by the Examiner in the latest action have been fully addressed and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution, she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the address provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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